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ABSTRACT

Materials appropriate for family literacy programs, defined as any literacy effort that includes either children or adults or both working toward literacy in a family context, are described. The 19 books selected and annotated for this guide, all published between 1989 and 1991, meet the standard criteria for inclusion in the Free Library of Philadelphia's Reader Development Program collection; i.e., they are of interest to adults, written on the eighth grade level or below, available in paperback, and low-cost. If fiction, they contain well-drawn characters, universal themes, and people from different backgrounds; if non-fiction, they contain accurate, timely, and necessary information. The books are divided into three topics: the family itself, the family in the community, and materials for tutors and teachers. Books are listed alphabetically by title in each section. Names and addresses of literacy organizations and publishers/distributors are appended. (LB)

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family literacy:

Community & Family Life Materials

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by Martha A. Lane
Adult Literacy Consultant

with Nancy Laskowski and Susan McDougall
Reader Development Program

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A Guide to Recent and Recommended Books

The Free Library of Philadelphia

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The Free Library of Philadelphia

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those representatives from Philadelphia literacy programs who responded to the Reader Development Program questionnaire and expressed their need for a guide to Family Literacy

Credit is due to those who have shared their literacy expertise through their teaching and writing, especially

Gail Weinstein-Shr, author of "Family and Intergenerational Literacy in Multilingual Families"*

Elizabeth S. Rangel, author of "Resource Guide to Family English Literacy"*

The ideas expressed by these authors form the basis of much of this overview of Family Literacy.

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*available from National Clearinghouse on Literacy Education (see "Where to Obtain More Information," p. 16)

FAMILY LITERACY: What Is It?

There are two exciting types of literacy programs that involve both adults and children in literacy activities: "family literacy" and "intergenerational literacy."

In most **family literacy** programs, parents are taught basic literacy and complementary parenting skills. The children, in turn, are introduced to pre-reading and reading activities by their parents and/or by other interested parties such as library storytellers. Preparing children for school and improving children's schoolwork are nearly always goals of family literacy projects.

Breaking the cycle of illiteracy is another important goal of family literacy projects. Often they are teamed with Head Start and Even Start community educational programs. Children may receive free books through such programs; special cultural events and field trips are usually planned for the entire family.

Intergenerational literacy projects may include parents but nearly always include other relatives or interested volunteers such as Foster Grandparents, neighbors, homework helpers, and other types of reading partners. In many cases the adults are good readers who receive special training in helping children to read better and to succeed in school.

There are, of course, many possible variations of both intergenerational and family literacy programs. Some programs work exclusively with English speakers; some, exclusively with ESL (English as a Second Language) students. Some work with both ESL and native English speakers in the same program. While programs in which adults teach or read to children are the norm, there are also programs which reverse this pattern. Sometimes children help their elders with spelling and reading skills; sometimes they teach English language skills to adults. While the children involved usually are preschoolers and elementary school children, there could also be programs focusing on in-school teenagers — including "at risk" youth — and teen parents.

"Family Literacy" will be used in this guide in its broadest sense to denote any literacy effort that includes either children or adults or both working toward literacy in a family context.

THE FREE LIBRARY OF PHILADELPHIA — RESOURCES FOR FAMILY LITERACY

Adult learners often cite their inability to help their children prepare for and succeed in school as a major reason for seeking literacy instruction. In order for the parents or other adult caregivers to help children with homework or to respond to messages from the teacher or the school, they must be able to read and compute competently. Since 1967, the Reader Development Program (RDP) of The Free Library of Philadelphia has been reviewing, purchasing, and distributing adult basic education and English as a Second Language (ESL) books to organizations and individuals serving adult learners in Philadelphia. Although most of its collection consists of basic skills books in reading, writing, and mathematics, RDP is committed to providing the best available low-reading-level books dealing with such community and family life subjects as parenting, jobs, and personal survival skills.

Family Literacy in The Free Library of Philadelphia links the Reader Development Program, a special service, with the Office of Work with Children, which develops and maintains materials, collections and programs for children all over Philadelphia. The Reader Development Program frequently refers literacy teachers, tutors, and adult literacy students with an interest in children's books to the children's librarians in Free Library branches. These librarians are expert on-the-spot advisors for those who are seeking children's books, audiotapes, and videocassettes suitable for family literacy activities. Materials available in the children's rooms of branches of The Free Library of Philadelphia are not duplicated by the Reader Development Program's collection, which provides only low-reading-level, adult-interest materials.

The books selected for this guide meet the standard criteria for inclusion in the Reader Development Program collection. That is, the books

- are of interest to adults
- are written on the 8th grade level or below (Gunning Fog Index)
- are available in paperback
- are relatively low-cost to allow for wide distribution to RDP users
- if fiction, contain well-drawn characters, universal themes, people from different backgrounds
- if non-fiction, contain accurate, timely, necessary information.

While every effort was made to choose both representative and outstanding books for this Family Literacy Guide, selections often were limited by a lack of material on relevant topics.

BOOKS FOR FAMILY LITERACY

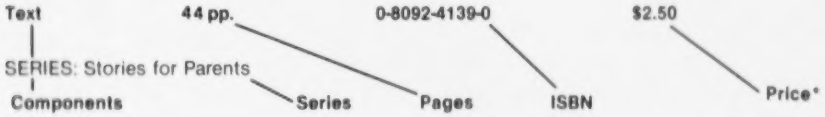
The books in this guide are divided into three topics: the family itself, the family in the community, and materials for tutors and teachers. Books are listed alphabetically by title in each section. The reading level (based on the Gunning Fog Index), type of book, number of pages, ISBN, and price are included with each annotation.

For additional titles related to family literacy, see the "Community and Family Life" section of the *Reader Development Bibliography*.

Key to Annotated Entries

Clairece Feagin and Michelle Feagin. Contemporary Books, Chicago, IL, 1990.

Similar in format and presentation to *Angry Feelings* (see above), this book of four story-lessons focuses on various parent-child interactions: accident prevention, honesty and responsibility, potty training, and impetuosity. Multiple-choice and discussion questions after each story help parents choose an appropriate response to children's actions. A lead-in statement and an explanation of the answers support the information and provide alternatives for parents who lack knowledge of the many ways to deal with children's behavior. — Annotation



* Because prices are changed frequently, readers are urged to check with publishers or distributors about current prices before placing orders.

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THE FAMILY ITSELF

Stories about family issues for parents to read to their children, books discussing parenting skills, and books on child development are available for adult new readers. By using these books, parents can gain insights into dealing with the everyday, but often tough, situations that confront them and their children.

Angry Feelings Level 3

Clairece Feagin. Contemporary Books, Chicago, IL, 1990.

The *Stories for Parents* series is intended to enable parents with low reading skills to explore social and parenting issues such as teaching right from wrong and building a child's self-esteem. All books in this series have a similar format: 44 pages, good illustrations, boxed reflective questions throughout the story ("What are some ways that parents can help brothers and sisters end fights with each other?"), and multiple-choice comprehension checks. All of the books were evaluated and field-tested by students and staff at the National Center for Family Literacy.

In *Angry Feelings*, four stories are used to explore ways of dealing with anger. Parents are presented with problems such as how to respond to sibling conflicts. An introductory statement focuses on the issue to be explored. Parents are encouraged to seek further help if they feel it is necessary; they are given directions for locating the local Child Abuse Hotline. This is an important way to let parents know that they can respond to their children's actions in a variety of ways.

Text 44 pp. 0-8092-4141-2 $2.75

SERIES: Stories for Parents

Beginning with Books . . . Level 6

Joan Brest Friedberg & Elizabeth Segel. The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, 1990.

Beautiful black and white photos of adults reading to children and an attractive, open layout make this pamphlet a joy to read. Students unable to read the entire text may well be able to read the boldfaced tips, such as: "Choose a quiet spot." and "Don't

worry if you think you're not a good reader yourself." Every parent in every literacy program should have a copy of this introduction to family reading.

Pamphlet 8 pp. $0.75 each for 10 or more

Books to Begin With . . .: Level 7
Easy-to-Read Books for Family Reading
Beginning with Books, The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA, (n.d.).

Adults with low reading skills can use this list of recommended children's books to find appropriate titles to read to their own children, aged 6 months to 8 years. Each entry gives the title, author, one-sentence description, and appropriate age level for each book. The books are grouped by levels of reading difficulty for the adults. Literacy learners could take the list to the library and ask librarians for available books, or tutors and learners could do this as a joint project.

Pamphlet 8 pp. $0.60

The Childbearing Year Level 4

Barbara B. Holstein. New Readers Press, Syracuse, NY, 1990.

Diagrams, drawings, and photographs add interest to this workbook on pregnancy, birth, and baby care. The book relates the varied experiences and childbirth situations of three pregnant mothers from different ethnic backgrounds. Facts and information, as well as feelings and concerns of the mothers-to-be, are handled realistically and sensitively. Contraception alternatives are described and relevant terms are defined in the glossary.

Text 110 pp. 0-88336-567-7 $6.50

A Good Beginning: Level 4
Enjoying Your Baby's First Year
Barbara S. Lewis. New Readers Press, Syracuse, NY, 1990.

A Good Beginning isn't a book and it isn't a calendar. More like a pamphlet in calendar format, it offers parents and caregivers sensible and enjoyable ideas for communicating with baby, making toys, and keeping track of baby's growth — all on a monthly basis.

Although photographs would have been more helpful in presenting the information to adults with low reading skills, the two-color line drawings are adequate. There are pictures of men as well as women interacting with the babies — a nice touch!

Text	30 pp.	0-88336-570-7	$6.50

Healthy Foods, Healthy Baby Level 4

Division of Maternal and Child Health, Department of Public Health, City of Philadelphia. Philadelphia, PA, 1989.

Proper nutrition is explained simply in this attractive pamphlet. Information on food groups, nutritional requirements, acceptable weight gain, foods to avoid, morning sickness, and the merits of breastfeeding are presented in a series of conversations between Kim and Maria, prospective teen parents. Some terms such as "WIC foods" (the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children) may need explanation. The focus on unmarried minority teen mothers limits the appeal somewhat. The intended audience, however, as well as all pregnant new readers will find the sound information, clear presentation, and apt illustrations beneficial.

Pamphlet	28 pp.	$0.60

Making It Right Level 4

Clairece Feagin and Michelle Feagin. Contemporary Books, Chicago, IL, 1990.

Similar in format and presentation to *Angry Feelings* (see above), this book of four story-lessons focuses on various parent-child interactions: accident prevention, honesty and responsibility, potty training, and impetuosity. Multiple-choice and discussion questions after each story help parents choose an appropriate response to children's actions. A lead-in statement and an explanation of the answers support the information and provide alternatives for parents who lack knowledge of the many ways to deal with children's behavior.

Text	44 pp.	0-8092-4139-0	$2.75

SERIES: Stories for Parents

What Will School Be Like? Level 4

Clairece Feagin. Contemporary Books, Chicago, IL, 1991.

This rather unusual book contains one story for parents and another story for parents to read to children. It tells of a boy and his first few days at school and how he, his parents, and his teacher work together to solve the problems he encounters. The book is well-written and has excellent charcoal illustrations. Discussion questions on thought-provoking issues are interspersed throughout both the child's and adult's stories. The students and staff at the Adult Learning Source Family Literacy Program in Denver, Colorado field-tested this book.

Text 42 pp. 0-8092-4013-0 $3.25

SERIES: Let's Read Together

Why Is Daddy Leaving? Level 4

Clairece Feagin. Contemporary Books, Chicago, IL, 1991.

This is another book containing a story for parents and a story for parents to read to children. The plot here is somber — the parents must tell their two young children that they are getting a divorce. The children are frightened and fear that somehow it is all their fault. The book provides a true-to-life story line and at the same time offers some practical advice for both parents and children about coping with divorce. The author worked in consultation with students and staff at the National Center for Family Literacy during the writing of this book.

Text 42 pp. 0-8092-4014-9 $3.25

SERIES: Let's Read Together

You and Your Child's Teacher Level 5

Pamela Weinberg. New Readers Press, Syracuse, NY, 1990.

This well-written and attractively illustrated book is ideal for parents who want to meet and work with their children's teachers but aren't sure how. Topics include: how to reach a teacher by phone, how to write notes and letters, how to prepare to attend parent-teacher conferences and other school events,

how to keep a file of school-related information for each child, and how to encourage learning at home.

The open layout, clear section headings, and the many examples, checklists, and writing exercises make the information practical and easy to understand. Every literacy student who is a parent should have a copy of this book.

Text	47 pp.	0-88336-627-4	$5.95

You Can Be Free: Level 4
An Easy-to-Read Handbook for Abused Women
Ginny NiCarthy and Sue Davidson. The Seal Press, Seattle, WA, 1989.

This much-needed book is based on *Getting Free: A Handbook for Women in Abusive Relationships.* It has been condensed and simplified for women with basic reading skills who have been, or are being, abused by a loved one. A wide range of topics is covered, such as: how to identify different types and phases of battering, where to go for emergency shelter, how to consider rights of abusers and the abused, how to regain self-esteem and overcome fear, and how to protect the children.

This critically important information is written in an easily understood way and is strengthened by the attractive layout and by many checklist activities.

Text	114 pp.	0-931188-68-7	$6.95

THE FAMILY IN THE COMMUNITY

In its Spring 1990 Special Report, The National Center for Family Literacy observed that "20 to 30 million adults have serious problems with basic skills; they cannot read, write, calculate, solve problems or communicate well enough to function effectively . . . in their everyday lives." In order to break the cycle of illiteracy, tutors and teachers in a family literacy program will need to intervene in the educational and daily experiences of adults who lack basic skills. By using the low-reading-level instructional books listed in this section, instructors can help their student-parents gain knowledge about everyday skills such as budgeting or reading labels on medicine bottles.

Life Skills Reading Level 7

Pamela Check. Scott, Foresman and Company, Glenview, IL, 1990.

This book is crammed with good examples of forms, charts, posters, phone books, reference manuals, and ads. Each unit contains several lessons. For instance, "At Home" is a unit on how to read the information, often overlooked, provided by items likely to be found in the home. Each lesson within the unit features one type of specialized reading matter (such as a recipe) followed by tips for reading it, helpful terms or abbreviations, practice reading, and "write your own" exercises when applicable.

Both basic literacy and ESL students will be able to use the concise, practical information successfully. Answers and explanations of solutions to more complex problems are provided at the back of the book.

Text	93 pp.	0-673-24941-7	$4.75

SERIES: Lifelong Learning Books

Payday! Level 5
Managing Your Paycheck
Margo Vreeburg Izzo. Janus Books, Hayward, CA, 1990.

This book chronicles the experiences of three young people who handle their paychecks, personal budgets, and monetary planning

quite differently. Using their lives and choices as examples, the book includes an abundance of sample forms, worksheets, and short writing activities about salaries and wages. It also has information on opening and maintaining bank accounts, on figuring income taxes, and on budgeting income and expenses. Although post-high school teens and young adults are featured as characters in this narrative, this is a good resource with up-to-date details and information for all adults facing money management decisions.

Text	103 pp.	0-88102-131-8	$4.95

Speaking Out on Health: An Anthology Level 6

Literacy Volunteers of New York City, New York, NY, 1989.

This is a collection of true stories about personal encounters with, and triumphs over, health problems. The writers are all students of LVNYC. Health problems described include: gallstones, tuberculosis, sickle cell anemia, arthritis, cerebral palsy, an industrial accident, a slipped disk, and alcoholism.

This well-edited collection explores the fears, courage, and resourcefulness of persons who have had to cope with very serious health handicaps. Some stories explain how frightening an illness can be for those who cannot read well and so cannot get information about their problems. Other stories stress the importance of family support in the recovery process.

Text	56 pp.	0-929631-05-6	$3.50

What You Must Know About AIDS Level 7

PSI Associates, Inc. Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, NJ, 1990.

Quite a number of books about AIDS are being written for adults with low literacy skills, but they often are so watered down as to be incomplete or so detailed that no one bothers to read them. This title strikes a happy medium. It answers seven basic questions such as: who gets AIDS? how is it transmitted? what are the symptoms? It includes a short pretest, brief introductions to topics, programmed-learning-style comprehension activities, and excellent vocabulary lists and definitions: e.g., "Transmit: To

pass along." There is also a final review test. Answers for all tests and exercises are included in the back of the book.

Text	39 pp.	0-13-081704-X	$6.00

SERIES: Bridges to Success

You Are Here: Level 5
A Guide to Everyday Maps, Plans, and Diagrams
Stephen Martin. New Readers Press, Syracuse, NY, 1990.

Starting with simple floor plans, this workbook provides the basic concepts for understanding many kinds of maps and diagrams. Mall maps, weather maps, area code maps, and bus maps are among the topics covered in this text. Map symbols and street grids are described. The illustrations are clear and simple. A glossary and answer key are included for the independent learner.

Text	80 pp.	0-88336-499-9	$7.25

MATERIALS FOR TUTORS AND TEACHERS

Three books on successful **Family Literacy** programs are listed below. They are helpful for program administrators as well as practitioners.

Family Literacy in Action:
A Survey of Successful Programs
M. Conlon McIvor, ed. New Readers Press, Syracuse, NY, 1990.

What is a family literacy project, anyway? How does it sound? What does it look like? These questions are answered in *Family Literacy in Action.* The book provides overviews of eight very different programs including Beginning with Books, a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania project; the Marin County Family Literacy program in Marin County, California; and the Kenan Family Literacy Project (now called the National Center for Family Literacy) in Louisville, Kentucky. The information provided includes the geographical area served, a brief history of the project, recruitment and training, costs and funding, format (how sessions are organized and scheduled), and program successes.

Every program considering a family literacy project should have a copy of this report. It is designed for program administrators, rather than for tutors, but tutor trainers, in particular, would benefit from studying it.

Text	48 pp.	0-88336-575-8	$5.00

Family Reading:
An Intergenerational Approach to Literacy
Ellen Goldsmith and Ruth D. Handel. New Readers Press, Syracuse, NY, 1990.

Based on the curriculum of a successful New York project, this book is packed with specific suggestions for conducting an intergenerational family literacy project. It includes detailed instructions for 10 units of reading enjoyment. A wide variety of topics (wordless picture books, folktales, telling family stories) is covered. Each unit features children's books and adult books with identical or related themes. The primary activity is the discussion and practice reading of children's books. Parents will be challenged and delighted with the discussions and with the suggested activities, including "Reading At Home" follow-ups.

The accompanying Photocopy Masters provide students with the adult reading selections and additional exercises.

Groups that want to encourage reading for the joy of it will welcome this guide with its great ideas and list of recommended children's and adult books.

Teacher's Guide	112 pp.	0-88336-990-7	$10.50
Photocopy Masters Set		0-88336-987-7	$49.50

Reading with Children:
A Handbook for Literacy Tutors
Lester L. Laminack, Ed.D. Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc., Syracuse, NY, 1989.

This title will be most useful for experienced tutors who wish to work in a small group setting with parents of young children. Using a general lesson plan outline that serves as a model for meetings, the tutor introduces adult new readers to several types of children's books and to techniques of reading to children. Scripts are provided to help the tutor transmit positive values toward reading while also developing reading skills. Activity topics covered include modeled reading, assisted reading, using taped books, storytelling, and writing. A videotape and trainer's guide are available from the publisher.

Text	46 pp.	0-930713-67-2	$5.00

WHERE TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION

For more information about definitions, goals, and examples of family literacy efforts, contact the following organizations:

The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy
1002 Wisconsin Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20007
(202) 338-2006; FAX (202) 337-6754

Collaborations for Literacy
Institute for Responsive Education
Boston University
605 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, MA 02215
(617) 353-3309

English Family Literacy Project
Bilingual/ESL Studies Program
University of Massachusetts at Boston
Boston, MA 02125-3393
(617) 287-5000

Harvard Family Research Project
Harvard Graduate School of Education
Longfellow Hall
Appian Way
Cambridge, MA 02138
(617) 495-1000

International Reading Association
800 Barksdale Road
P.O. Box 8139
Newark, DE 19714-8139
(302) 731-1600; FAX (302) 731-1057

Laubach Literacy Action
P.O. Box 131
1320 Jamesville Road
Syracuse, NY 13210
(315) 422-9121; FAX (315) 422-6360

Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc.
5795 Widewaters Parkway
Syracuse, NY 13214
(315) 445-8000; FAX (315) 445-8006

National Center for Family Literacy
401 South 4th Avenue, Suite 610
Louisville, KY 40202
(502) 584-1133; FAX (502) 584-0172

National Clearinghouse on Literacy Education
Center for Applied Linguistics
1118 22nd Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037
(202) 429-9292; FAX (202) 659-5641

ADDRESSES OF PUBLISHERS AND DISTRIBUTORS

Beginning with Books
The Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
Homewood Branch
7101 Hamilton Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15208
(412) 731-1717

Contemporary Books, Inc.
Department S90
180 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60601
(800) 621-1918; FAX (312) 782-3987

Fearon/Janus/Quercus
500 Harbor Boulevard
Belmont, CA 94002
(800) 877-4283; FAX (415) 595-8143

Janus
see Fearon/Janus/Quercus

Literacy Volunteers of America, Inc.
5795 Widewaters Parkway
Syracuse, NY 13214
(315) 445-8000; FAX (315) 445-8006

Literacy Volunteers of New York City
Attn: Publishing Department
121 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10013
(212) 925-3001

New Readers Press
Attn: Fulfillment Department
P.O. Box 888
Syracuse, NY 13210
(800) 448-8878; FAX (315) 422-5561

Prentice Hall Regents
200 Old Tappan Road
Old Tappan, NJ 07675
(800) 223-1360 (East of Mississippi)
(800) 225-7162 (West of Mississippi)
(201) 767-5937; FAX (800) 445-6991

Public Health Nutritionist
Maternal and Infant Health
Philadelphia Department of Public Health
500 S. Broad Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146
(215) 875-5927

Scott, Foresman
Lifelong Learning Books
1900 East Lake Avenue
Glenview, IL 60025
(800) 628-4480; FAX (708) 729-3065

The Seal Press
Distributed by:
Consortium Book Sales
287 East 6th Street, Suite 365
St. Paul, MN 55101
(800) 283-3572; FAX (612) 221-0124

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For more information about Family Literacy or Adult Basic Education materials, contact:

Reader Development Program
The Free Library of Philadelphia
Logan Square
Philadelphia, PA 19103-1157
(215) 686-5346

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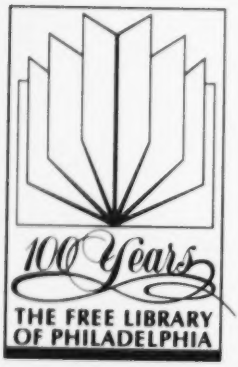
Logan Square
Philadelphia, PA 19103



You can turn to us.